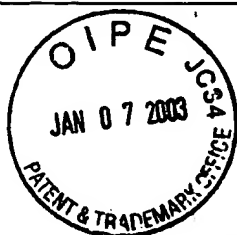


ARNOLD & PORTER



January 7, 2003

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JAN 08 2003

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Attn: Box Non-Fee Amendment

Re: U.S. Patent Application No. 09/606,977
Filed: June 28, 2000
Title: **Nucleic Acid Molecules and Other Molecules Associated with Plants**
Inventor: Joseph R. BYRUM
Atty. Docket No.: 16517.144/38-21(15877)B

Sir:

The following documents are forwarded herewith for appropriate action by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO):

1. Appointment of Associate Attorneys;
2. Amendment and Response to Office Action, including Exhibit A; and
3. Return postcard.

Please stamp the postcard with the filing date of these documents and return it to our courier.

In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned. Applicant does not believe any fees are due in conjunction with this filing. However, if any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17 are required in the present application, including any fees for extensions of time, then the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Arnold & Porter Deposit Account No. 50-2387, referencing matter number 16517.144. A duplicate copy of this letter is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly Logue Prutz (Reg. No. 47,755)
David R. Marsh (Reg. No. 41,408)

Attachments